conditions, can be judged only after the demonstration project come into operation and sufficient data has been generated.

Increase in prices or crude oil

†3495. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increase in price of crude oil in the international market on April 4, 2005 and also due to Governments' tax, the prices of diesel and petrol are likely to increase in the country; and

(b) if so, the amount of extra money to be collected per litre in the form of tax on petrol and diesel in the country as a result of price rise in international market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Since the end of 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices combined with considered week-to-week and even day-to- day volatility. The Indian basket of crude oil touched an all-time high of US $ 52.83 per bbl on 04.04.2005 compared to an average price of US$ 27.96 per bbl in 2003-04 and US $ 39.21 per bbl in 2004-05. There has since been some softening, the Indian basket having declined to around US $ 47/bbl in the week ending 16.4.2005. The international price of crude oil and petroleum products decidively impacts the domestic prices. The Government is continuoulsy monitoring the price situation. A decision on prices has not yet been taken.

An increase of Re. 1 per litre in the international market, translates to an increase of Rs. 1.43 per litre in the retail price of petrol and diesel at Delhi, on account of increase and *ad valorem* duties/ taxes like customs duty at a rate of 10%, excise duty at a rate of 8% and sales tax at a rate of 20%.

Smuggling of High Speed Diesel

3496. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.